

FORM B - BUILDING

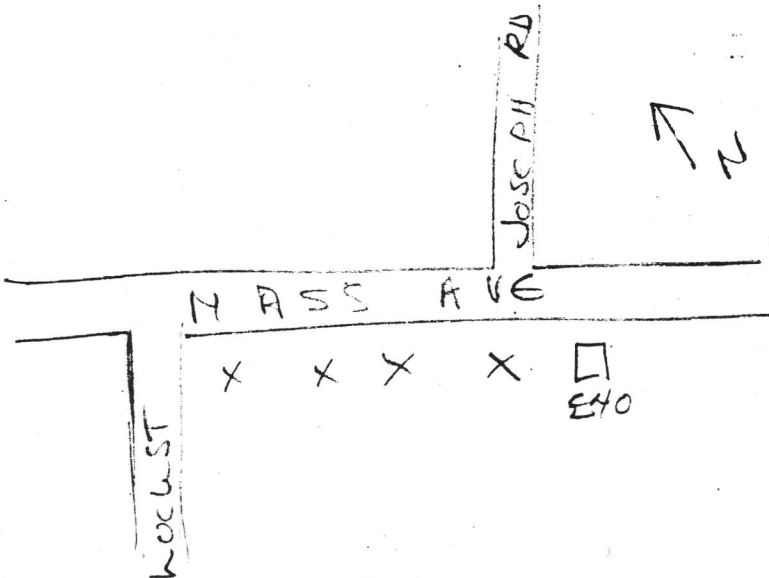
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State

In Area no.	Form no.
E	240



n Lexington
ress 956 Mass. Ave.
e Jacob Robinson-Sylvester Harrington House
sent use private residence
sent owner Yeomans, Frank
ription: After 1809, Before 1816
ource Dead Research

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



style Federal (w/ Fr. Sec. Emp. alt)

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric ends brick, clapboard facade

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features five bay wide, two deep, center entrance; two end chimneys, emerge from

mansard

Altered addition of mansard roof Date c1870

Moved lintels, brackets Date _____

5. Lot size:

Less than one acre x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 50'

Approximate distance of building from street

15' - 20'

6. Recorded by E. W. Reinhardt

Organization Lex. Hist. Com.

Date 7/75

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Jacob Robinson

Original use _____

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____	Exploration/	_____	Science/	_____
The Arts	_____	settlement	_____	invention	_____
Commerce	_____	Industry	_____	Social/	_____
Communication	_____	Military	_____	Humanitarian	_____
Community development	_____	Political	_____	Transportation	_____

9. Historical Significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

roof; granite foundation. Small brackets support flat projecting caps over front facade windows; double bracket; support projecting roof. Ell to left rear with simpler window treatment.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Lex.Hist. Soc. Proceedings Vol. 2, 4

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
LEXINGTON

Property Address
956 MASS. AVENUE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

E

240

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

This house was reportedly constructed for Jacob Robinson (1762-1848) who served as a town selectman in 1805 and 1806 and was an assessor for several years. Jacob's youngest daughter Mary Ann (b. 1812) married Sylvester Harrington in 1841.

It was undoubtedly during Sylvester Harrington's ownership that the house saw the addition of the mansard roof and other details in the French Second Empire style that found popularity after the Civil War. According to E.B. Worthen, it was Sylvester Harrington who extended Independence Avenue and laid out on paper much of the area on the hill behind his house, an area that was not developed until later.

The 1898 and 1906 maps indicate the property was then owned by Henry Adams and was apparently converted into apartments at this time (if not before). Worthen recalled that the house was rented by the William F. Caldwells and Willard Pierce in the early 20th century. Pierce was a farmer and Caldwell was a fruit merchant. The house had many tenants throughout the early 20th century.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington*.

Lexington Directories, various dates.

Middlesex County Register of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.

U.S. Census, various dates.

Worthen, Edwin B. *Tracing the Past in Lexington, Massachusetts*. New York: Vantage Press, 1998, p. 45.

Supplement prepared by:

Lisa Mausolf

June 2009